



With the U.S. Capitol in the background, people walk past a sign that says, "Voters Decide Protect Democracy," Jan. 6, 2022, in Washington.

Associated Press

Future of American democracy loomed large in voters' minds

By GARY FIELDS and NUHA DOLBY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — This week's ballot had an unspoken candidate — American democracy. Two years of relentless attacks on democratic traditions by former President Donald Trump and his allies left the country's future in doubt, and voters responded.

Many of the candidates who supported the lie that Trump won the 2020 election lost races that could have put them in position to influence future elections. But the conditions that threatened democracy's demise remain, and Americans view them from very different perspectives, depending on their politics.

In New Hampshire, voters reelected Republican Gov. Chris Sununu to a fourth term but rejected three congressional candidates who were either endorsed by Trump or aligned themselves with the for-

mer president. Instead, voters sent Democratic incumbents back to Washington.

Bill Greiner, a restaurant owner and community bank founder, said the Trump candidates won their Republican primaries by "owning the crazy lane" and then provided an easy playbook for Democrats in the general election.

Greiner, a Republican, said in past years he has fallen in line behind GOP nominees when his preferred candidates lost primaries, but he couldn't vote for candidates who continued to deny the legitimacy of the 2020 presidential election.

"The election was not stolen, and anyone who leads with and finishes with being an election denier is not going to do well," he said. "I think that point was proven with exclamation marks."

Continued on Page 2

Parkietenbos, Integrity and Aruparking discussed during Parliamentary session on 2023 budget



Local artist, Nimia Alexandra Geerman: "If I make someone feel something with my art, for me that's great"



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Future of American democracy loomed large in voters' minds

Continued from Front

In the run-up to the mid-term election, President Joe Biden put the spotlight on threats to American democracy, although critics suggested it was a ploy to take attention off his poor approval ratings and voters' concerns about the economy.

Election Day showed Biden was not alone in his anxiety: 44% of voters said the future of democracy was their primary consideration, according to AP VoteCast, an extensive survey of more than 94,000 voters nationwide. That included about 56% of Democrats and 34% of Republicans.

But among Republicans, those who identify as being part of Donald Trump's Make America Great Again movement were more likely than others to say the future of democracy was the top factor when voting, 37% to 28%.

The concerns over democracy were shared by members of both major parties, but for different reasons: Only about a third of Republicans believe Biden was legitimately elected, according to the AP VoteCast survey, showing how widely Trump's continued false claims about the election have permeated his party.

Democrats, meanwhile, believed the spread of election lies and the number of Republican candidates repeating them were an assault on the foundation of democracy.

Several of the most vocal candidates who denied the results of the 2020 presidential election ended up losing races for statewide office that play some role in overseeing elections.

Trump and his supporters targeted races for Secretary of State, the office that oversees voting in most states, after being unable to overturn 2020 election results at the state level.

The AP VoteCast survey also showed the effect the false claims have had on how Americans view the security of elections. It found that MAGA Republicans were



Supporters of President Donald Trump demonstrate during a rally on, Jan. 6, 2021, at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus, Ohio.

Associated Press

more likely to lack confidence in the midterm vote — about half of MAGA Republicans overall were not confident the vote would be counted accurately, but just 3 in 10 of their non-MAGA counterparts had those concerns.

There was no widespread fraud in the 2020 election or any credible evidence that it was tainted, as confirmed by federal and state election officials, exhaustive reviews in battleground states and Trump's own attorney general.

The former president's allegations of fraud were also roundly rejected by dozens of courts, including by judges he appointed.

Still, the conspiracy theories run deep. They offered fertile ground for sowing mistrust when fairly routine problems arose in Detroit and Maricopa County, Arizona. The trouble was easily solved, but not before it sparked recriminations on social media, including posts by Trump. Arizona's Republican gubernato-

rial candidate, Kari Lake, raised the possibility of nefarious activity and has said if she wins, she would call a special session to make massive changes to Arizona election laws.

Questions about elections were directly on the ballot in several states.

In Nebraska, voters approved a voter ID proposal that was born in the aftermath of the 2020 election and the false claims of fraud. Michigan voters approved a wide-ranging initiative backed by voting-rights advocates. Among other things, it would expand early voting options, require state-funded return postage and offer drop boxes for absentee ballots. The measure also specified that the Board of State Canvassers has only a "clerical, nondiscretionary" duty to certify election results.

Long-term victory should not be declared, said Ron Daniels, president of the Institute of the Black World 21st Century: "The white

nationalist, white supremacist, MAGA movement has been checked but not defeated."

He said Black voters, especially, were aware of what was at stake. The election deniers who would potentially nullify votes were part of a long history of efforts to deny people, especially people of color, representation.

The results were "dangerously close," Daniels said. "We have to wait to see the ultimate outcome."

Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, a Democrat who won reelection against a candidate who has repeated Trump's 2020 falsehoods, said she was heartened to see concessions from candidates who had previously refused to acknowledge that Biden's win was legitimate or who repeated Trump's election lies.

Among them was Minnesota Republican gubernatorial candidate Scott Jensen, who lost to the incumbent Democratic governor.

"Tim Walz is the governor for four more years," he told supporters. "Republicans, quite frankly, we didn't have a red wave. It was a blue wave. And we need to stop, we need to recalibrate. We need to ask ourselves: 'OK, what can we learn from this? What can we do better?'"

Jenna Ellis, senior legal adviser for Pennsylvania Republican gubernatorial candidate Doug Mastriano, said on her podcast: "There isn't this kind of concern that we had in 2020. We can't just say, 'Oh my gosh, everything is stolen.' That's ridiculous for this election."

The fact that some of the strongest supporters of Trump's claims conceded their defeats could help "reestablish some of the norms of the democratic process that were trashed during Trump," Dartmouth historian Matthew Delmont said.

The question now is whether democracy is safe, or just safe today, he said. □

U.S. charges suspect linked to notorious ransomware gang

By ERIC TUCKER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A man who authorities say participated in a ransomware campaign that extracted tens of millions of dollars from victims has been charged in the United States, the Justice Department announced Thursday. Mikhail Vasiliev, a dual national of Russia and Canada, was arrested Wednesday. He is currently in custody in Canada and is awaiting extradition to the U.S. on charges that accuse him of involvement in the Lockbit ransomware operation.

No lawyer for the 33-year-old Vasiliev, of Bradford, Ontario, Canada was listed on the court docket. He faces charges of conspiracy to intentionally damage protected computers and to transmit ransom demands.

Lockbit has been one of the most prolific strains of ransomware. During the first five months of this year



Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco speaks during the Chiefs of Police Executive Forum, at the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) headquarters in Washington, May 6, 2022.

Associated Press

it accounted for 46% of all ransomware-related breaches that were publicized on extortion sites used by the syndicate to pressure victims by threatening to publicly leak sto-

len data, according to the cybersecurity firm Palo Alto Networks.

Its top victims have been in the U.S., Italy and Germany, where it targeted a gamut of industries from

manufacturing to retail.

The Justice Department says that between January 2020 and the present, LockBit members have conducted at least 1,000 ransomware attacks — in

which hackers hold victims' data hostage through encryption until a sum is paid — in the U.S. and around the world. Prosecutors said the hackers made at least \$100 million in ransom demands and extracted tens of millions of dollars in payments. Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco said in a statement that the arrest was the "result of over two-and-a-half-years of investigation into the LockBit ransomware group."

According to court documents made public Thursday, Canadian law enforcement searched Vasiliev's home and discovered a file named "TARGETLIST" on a device. One of the victims named on that list was a business in New Jersey, where the Justice Department filed the case, the documents say.

Law enforcement did another search in October, when they said they found on a laptop computer an open tab pointed to a site called "LockBit LOGIN." □

CDC to conduct health study at polluted former Army base

By MARTHA MENDOZA, JULIET LINDERMAN and JASON DEAREN

Associated Press

Federal health officials are conducting a new study to determine whether veterans once stationed at a now-shuttered California military base were exposed to dangerously high levels of cancer-causing toxins.

The decision by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention comes nine months after an Associated Press investigation found that drinking water at Fort Ord contained toxic chemicals and that hundreds of veterans who lived at the central California coast base in the 1980s and 1990s later developed rare and terminal blood cancers.

In a letter last Friday to Rep. Katie Porter, D-Calif., the director of the CDC's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Patrick Breyse, wrote that "there are sufficient data and scientific reasons for ATSDR to re-evaluate health risks

related to historical drinking water exposures at Fort Ord." Porter had asked for a new study in February, two days after the AP published its story.

The agency did not immediately respond to a request seeking further details about the new study.

Army veteran Julie Akey, who lived at Fort Ord and was diagnosed in 2016 at the age of 46 with multiple myeloma, a rare blood cancer, said she is "confident that science will prove our high rate of cancers and illnesses are not a coincidence."

Akey started a Facebook group for Fort Ord veterans with cancer. The number has grown to nearly 1,000. In 1990, four years before it began the process of closing as an active military base, Fort Ord was added to the Environmental Protection Agency's list of the most polluted places in the nation. Included in that pollution were dozens of chemicals, some

now known to cause cancer, that were found in the base's drinking water and soil. The AP's review of public documents showed the Army knew that chemicals had been improperly dumped at Fort Ord for decades. Even after the contamination was documented, the Army played down the risks.

One of those chemicals was trichloroethylene, or TCE, which was known as a miracle degreaser and was widely used at Fort Ord. The Army found TCE in Fort Ord's wells 43 separate times from 1985 to 1994, and 18 of those tests showed TCE exceeded legal safety limits.

The new health study will update one conducted more than 25 years ago. The previous ATSDR public health study, published in 1996, found that toxins in the soil and in the aquifers below Fort Ord were not likely to pose a past, present or future threat to those living there.



Rusted barrels rest outside barracks at Fort Ord on Wednesday, April 28, 2021, in Fort Ord, Calif.

Associated Press

But that conclusion was based on limited data supplied by the military and before medical science understood the relationship between some of the chemical exposures and cancer, particularly TCE. Four years after the ATSDR's assessment, in 2000, the Department of Health and Human Services added TCE to its roster of chemicals known to cause cancer. It's unclear how long and at what concentrations

TCE may have been in the water before 1985, when hundreds of thousands of people lived on the base. And TCE wasn't the only problem. The EPA identified more than 40 "chemicals of concern" in soil and groundwater.

The Department of Veterans Affairs told the AP earlier this year that the contamination was "within the allowable safe range" in areas that provided drinking water. □

California seeks to pair home energy storage, rooftop solar

By KATHLEEN RONAYNE

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)

— California regulators on Thursday proposed changes to the state's residential solar market designed to encourage more at-home battery systems that can help the electrical grid rely less on fossil fuels in the evenings, especially during heat waves.

It's the California Public Utilities Commission's second attempt at updating the state's incentive program for home solar systems. An earlier decision, released last December, added new charges for solar customers and lessened the subsidies for installing rooftop panels, which utilities wanted but solar companies warned would cripple the booming industry.

Solar panels are on 1.5 million California homes, creating by far the nation's largest home solar market. The state has set ambitious goals for transitioning away from fossil fuels and to renewable energy sources like solar and wind to power homes, businesses and



Solar panels sit on rooftops at a housing development in Folsom, Calif., Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2020. Associated Press

cars. Under existing rules, solar customers can sell extra energy they aren't using back to their power company for credit on their bill. California's three major utilities Pacific Gas & Electric, Southern California Edison, and San Diego Gas & Electric have argued the payment is so generous that solar customers aren't paying

their fair share for the overall cost of the electric grid, which they still rely on when their panels aren't generating power. Power rates include other costs like electric transmission and wildfire prevention work.

The new proposal lessens how much money people get for selling their extra solar energy. But it doesn't

include a solar-specific fee that utilities wanted. It creates new financial incentives for people to install home storage systems to capture extra solar energy during the day. It also changes electric rates to encourage people to export stored energy to the grid in the late afternoon and early evening, when

the grid typically transitions from renewable sources to fossil fuels.

"These changes will help meet California's climate goals and increase reliability, while promoting affordability across all income levels," administrative law judge Kelly Hymes wrote in the decision.

The five-member public utilities commission has until mid-December to discuss the proposal. If they approve it, it wouldn't take effect until at least April 2023. People who already have solar panels and storage systems would not see a change to their bill credits; the plan would only affect new customers. It also locks in a better rate for people who install in the next five years in an attempt to encourage more homeowners to get into the solar market now.

The public utilities commission estimates the average customer with only solar panels would save \$100 a month and that people with rooftop solar panels and storage systems would save \$136. □

1st winter storm of season rolling through Montana, Dakotas

By DAVE KOLPACK

Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — The first winter storm of the season to blast off from the Rockies was unloading its energy Thursday primarily in North Dakota, where it could dump up to 18 inches (46 centimeters) of snow and kick up winds as high as 50 mph (80 kph).

The system started with a round of freezing drizzle that made driving tricky in the Dakotas. It led to a chain reaction crash that totaled a state trooper's vehicle and closed Interstate 94 in eastern North Dakota for several hours Wednesday night and shut down I-29 in eastern North Dakota on Thursday morning.

Both interstates have reopened but travel was expected to become nearly impossible in some stretch-

es due to whiteout conditions, the National Weather Service said. Flight delays and cancellations were being posted at airports across the region.

The storm was already hammering central North Dakota on Thursday morning. Jacqueline Swiftbird, a cashier at the Flying J truck stop in Mandan, said a

semi-trailer that had been hauling other vehicles was stuck outside her window. She said she was the only cashier who could make it into work and that she picked up employees for restaurants and other shops in the travel center.

"It is extremely, extremely hazardous out there," Swiftbird said. "I am really busy

being the only cashier but I would rather not have any other employees try to make it here in these conditions."

Storm warnings were issued Thursday for western Montana, for southwestern through northeastern South Dakota and for northwestern Minnesota, but meteorologist Carl Jones said North Dakota was getting the worst of it.

"Right now it's mainly driven by heavy snow amounts," said Jones, who works out of the weather service's eastern North Dakota office in Grand Forks. "We are talking 1- to 2-inch per hour rates over a pretty wide swath."

The crash involving the North Dakota trooper's vehicle happened about 6:30 p.m. Wednesday on I-94 near Jamestown, the state Highway Patrol said. The

officer had gotten out of a vehicle after seeing a semi-trailer jackknife on the road and the patrol car was struck by a passenger car. The trooper was not injured. There were seven additional crashes at the same location, all in quick succession.

Several people were transported to a Jamestown hospital with injuries, including one person with a broken leg, the patrol said.

Jones, the meteorologist, said the first storm is always a learning or relearning experience.

"We kind of lean on that. That first storm, if you will, of the season, we really try to get the message out to be extra cautious," Jones said. "We're really trying to remind people to practice good safe driving habits and get their winter survival kits into their vehicles." □



A woman crosses Broadway Avenue as snow continues to fall during a blizzard in Bismarck, N.D. on Thursday, Nov. 10, 2022.

Associated Press

U.N. envoy urges lifting of sanctions harming Syrian civilians

By ALBERT AJI

Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) —

A U.N. envoy on Thursday urged Western and Arab countries to lift sanctions imposed on Syria years ago, warning that the measures are exacerbating "the destruction and trauma" Syrian civilians have been exposed to since the country's civil war started 11 years ago.

Alena Douhan, the U.N.'s special rapporteur on unilateral coercive measures and human rights, said the sanctions are leading to shortages in medicines and medical equipment that affect the lives of ordinary Syrians.

The statement, at the end of Douhan's 12-day visit to the war-torn country, detailed what she described as "catastrophic effects of unilateral sanctions across all walks of life in the country." Sanctions by the United States, the European Union



Alena Douhan, a U.N. official tasked with looking into the impact of sanctions on human rights, speaks during a press conference in Damascus, Syria, Thursday, Nov. 10, 2022.

Associated Press

and some Arab countries have been in place since 2011, after President Bashar Assad's government cracked down on protests against his rule that began as part of Arab Spring uprisings sweeping the region. Syria quickly descended into civil war.

The sanctions have targeted the oil industry, money transfers and a number of institutions and officials, in-

cluding Assad. Over the years, they were expanded to target officials blamed for repression and the use of chemical weapons.

"I urge the immediate lifting of all unilateral sanctions that severely harm human rights and prevent any efforts for early recovery, rebuilding and reconstruction," Douhan said, adding that 12 million Syrians grapple with food insecurity.

Douhan said that 90% of Syria's population currently lives in poverty, with limited access to food, water, electricity, shelter, cooking and heating and fuel.

With more than half of Syria's vital infrastructure either "completely destroyed or severely damaged," the sanctions are undermining efforts towards economic recovery, she added.

Once an oil exporter, Syria now relies on imports, and higher fuel costs caused by the sanctions have pushed up prices in nearly every sector. The Syrian pounds now sells at about 5,000 to the dollar on the black market, compared to 47 pounds for \$1 at the start of the conflict. Hundreds of thousands have been killed, millions displaced and large parts of the country destroyed.

Some rights groups pushed back against Douhan's assessment. The Syrian Network for Human Rights said

Douhan should demand that the "Syrian regime ends its violations and crimes against humanity" as a precondition for lifting sanctions. The group said Assad's government has never launched an investigation into the killing and disappearance of tens of thousands of Syrians and never held any official accountable. "Therefore, we believe that more sanctions must be imposed on thousands of implicated individuals from the Syrian regime, in order to combat the culture of impunity," it said.

Douhan said that blocking payments and refusal of deliveries by foreign producers and banks, coupled with sanctions-induced limited foreign currency reserves, "have caused serious shortages in medicines and specialized medical equipment, particularly for chronic and rare diseases." □

Taliban official: Women banned from Afghanistan's gyms

By RIAZAT BUTT

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The Taliban are banning women from using gyms in Afghanistan, an official in Kabul said Thursday, the religious group's latest edict cracking down on women's rights and freedoms since they took power more than a year ago.

The Taliban overran the country last year, seizing power in August 2021. They have banned girls from middle school and high school, despite initial promises to the contrary, restricted women from most fields of employment, and ordered them to wear head-to-toe clothing in public. □



Hameeda, 18, left, and Sadaf, 14, Afghan girls who are training to be boxers, work at their gym in Ghazi Stadium Kabul, Afghanistan, Tuesday, Oct. 23, 2007.

Associated Press



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Report: Failure to fix throttle led to Indonesia plane crash

By NINIEK KARMINI

Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) —

Indonesian aviation investigators concluded Thursday that a nearly decade-long failure to properly repair a malfunctioning automatic throttle, pilots' overreliance on the plane's automation system, and inadequate training contributed to the crash of a Boeing 737-500 last year that killed 62 people.

National Transportation Safety Committee investigators said in their final report that the Sriwijaya Air jet's maintenance record showed the problem with the automatic throttle had been reported by pilots 65 times since 2013 and was still unsolved when the 26-year-old plane plunged into the Java Sea after taking off from Jakarta on Jan. 9, 2021.

Lead investigator Nurcahyo Utomo said at a news conference that the pilots' last conversation with air traffic control was about 4 minutes after takeoff, when they responded to an instruction to go up to 13,000 feet. The plane's flight data recorder showed it reached an altitude of 10,900 feet and then be-



National Transportation Safety Committee investigator Nurcahyo Utomo holds a model of an airplane during a press conference in Jakarta, Indonesia, in Jakarta, Indonesia, Thursday, Nov. 10, 2022.

Associated Press

gan declining, Utomo said. He said the plane required less engine thrust as it neared its target altitude, but that the automatic throttle was unable to reduce the right engine's power because of friction in the mechanical system. The automatic throttle attempted to compensate by reducing the left engine's power further, cut-

ting its output to as low as 34%. The right engine's power remained at its climb setting, or about 92%, resulting in sharply unequal thrust, the report said. The pilot fought to bring the plane up, but "was unable to recover from the situation," and the jet rolled onto its left side, the report said. A minute later, the flight data recorder showed that

the automatic throttle had been disengaged as the plane pitched down. The recorder stopped recording a few seconds later. The automatic throttle can be used by pilots to set the speed automatically, thereby reducing their workload and wear on the engines. Movements of the automatic throttle are linked to 13 other compo-

nents of the plane, the report said.

Many of the problems leading to the crash were disclosed in a preliminary report issued by Indonesian authorities last year. The final report released Thursday provided new details of the pilots' response to them. Utomo said inadequate training "contributed to the inability of the pilot to prevent and recover from the condition."

The pilots' overreliance on the plane's automation system may have resulted in inadequate monitoring in the cockpit, so that the flight deviation was not immediately noticed, the report said. Utomo said the voice data recorder only worked on one audio channel, and another channel that was supposed to record all voices in the cockpit was filled with an unknown buzzing sound that prevented investigators from fully analyzing the coordination between the two pilots.

The report concluded that repeated attempts to repair the automatic throttle over the years had failed because they had not properly fixed the mechanical issue. □

U.N. agency urges halt to Dominican deportation of Haitians

By Megan Janetsky

The Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — The U.N.'s chief human rights agency called on the Dominican Republic on Thursday to halt rising deportations of

Haitian migrants at a time of turmoil in their country. "Unremitting armed violence and systematic human rights violations in Haiti do not currently allow for the safe, dignified and sus-

tainable return of Haitians to the country," U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk said in a statement. He extended that call to other nations in the region. The United States also has also continued to crack down on Haitian migration despite the Biden administration expressing concern for Haiti's humanitarian situation. Gang warfare and political turmoil have fueled an exodus from Haiti, with migrants seeking refuge across the region. In the Dominican Republic which shares a 240-mile (390-kilometer) border with Haiti on the island of Hispaniola that has prompted migratory and border crackdowns that the gov-

ernment says will "guarantee border security." Dominican authorities say they deported 43,900 migrants, largely Haitians, between July and October. Deportation figures also shot up by about 50% between September and October. Advocacy groups say mass deportations of Haitians from the Dominican Republic ramped up following the 2021 assassination of Haitian President Jovenel Moïse, which thrust an already crisis-stricken nation into chaos. Such deportations have jumped in recent months as Haiti's most powerful gang blocked fuel supplies, creating widespread hardships. That blockade was lifted

only this week. Türk also urged the Caribbean nation to take measures to prevent xenophobia and discrimination against Haitians. But William Charpentier Blanco, head of the National Committee for Migrants and Refugees in the capital of Santo Domingo, said the Dominican government's "persecution of migrants" has only deepened such sentiments. While the activist said he understands Dominican security concerns, it is "another thing going after a number of migrants that cross the border looking for work, looking to protect their own lives. They're honest people who cross into the Dominican Republic to survive." □



Haitians wait to cross the border between Dominican Republic and Haiti in Dajabon, Dominican Republic, Friday, Nov. 19, 2021. Associated Press

Parkietenbos, Integrity and Aruparking discussed during Parliamentary session on 2023 budget

ORANJESTAD – Yesterday the session regarding the national budget for 2023 continued in the Parliament of Aruba, in the presence of minister of Transport, Integrity, Nature and Senior Affairs, Ursell Arends, who answered different questions from members of Parliaments from the coalition parties, MEP and Raiz.

In his answers, Arends emphasized the word "integrity" that is mentioned a lot recently, indicating that as politicians they all need to reflect for a moment on how this affects each of them in the eyes of the community.

He was asked what he is doing regarding integrity. He elaborated about Corporate Governance code, the legislation that was also presented in the Consultative Congress on the 3rd and 4th of November, where for the first time they presented a legislation draft – Landsverordening Corporate Governance and draft Code Corporate Governance – to provide space for all organizations that need to deal and work with this law to give their input and the law can go through the necessary process. Arends said that the organizations have three weeks to give feedback, there are around 80 organizations as well as students from the University of Aruba who took part in the Consultative Congress.

Once the feedback is received, it will be processed together with the Corporate Governance Commission, Themis Institute and wetgeving jurist (law attorney) who are working on it so that the law can be sent to Directie Wetgeving en Juridische Zaken (DWZ – Department of Legislation and Legal Affairs) and continue the formal process to eventually arrive to Raad van Advies and the Aruban Parliament.

"The concept was sent also to Parliament, and this does not mean that Par-



liament agrees with it de facto, but you as members of Parliament can also use the opportunity to review the concept and if there are any changes you want to see in the concept."

Regarding the Bureau of Integrity – Bureau Integriteit – Arends said that the staff was increased from two to four people. The idea is that in the following months this will be increased to six, so that they can execute all the work that the bureau needs to complete. "This guarantees that a person in the public apparatus who sees something that is not going well and lacks integrity can receive protection when bringing this to light."

Dump at Parkietenbos needs to close on the 31st of December

Regarding the dump at Parkietenbos, which needs to close on the 31st of December, Arends was asked if Carentra – recycling and scrap trading firm – currently has the equipment to process tires. Arends explained that initially Ecotech – Recycling and waste processing company – receives the tires, remove the iron from it and send that to (recycling company) Daltra, and afterwards the iron is exported. As for the tire itself, Ecotech shreds them and the smaller tires go to Carentra where they use pyrolysis to process these tires to get oil as well as black carbon, which will be

exported.

"The oil will be used to reduce the amount of Heavy Fuel Oil that Aruba is importing to power the turbines at (utilities company) WEB Aruba NV. These are the advanced agreements that are taking place with FMSA and Carentra, and this way we are closing the circle to arrive at a circular economy", Arends said. "This is a perfect example of one product, and in the same way we are working on other waste streams to close the loop and arrive at a circular economy."

Must introduce Aruparking in a way that does not inconvenience the community

As can be seen on social media, there is a lot of unhappiness from drivers in the local community in the last few days since Aruparking was reactivated and they found stickers stuck on their cars, particularly on the driver's window. They were unhappy with it because of the precise placement of the sticker.

Arends commented: "Each person who receives a sticker is because they are not in compliance with the law. In this regard we must also reflect on complying with the existing rules, then you will not get a sticker. This is something in which citizens must also assume their responsibility and comply with the existing rules to avoid getting stickers two, three or four times."

He said he agrees that Aruparking needs to be introduced in a way that will not inconvenience or antagonize the citizens. "In this I am in complete agreement. We will work together with the supervisory board and the management of Arubus to introduce Aruparking in a way that is in good social form, and also in a way that it really creates the regulation, organization, accessibility and mobility that we want to see in the city centre." □



Rhythm Circus Company Aruba (RCC Aruba) performing at Paseo Herencia



Our company is based in Aruba since 2010 and has performed at the Paseo Herencia Mall doing our circus and Latin dance show every week for the past 10 years. In 2019, RCC Aruba did their very first international show in China in three different cities, representing Aruba during the opening ceremony and during different gala shows in the China Wuqiao International Circus Festival.

In the winter of 2021, RCC Aruba performed in the capital of circus Budapest for two months doing more than 70 shows in total. In January 2022 RCC Aruba participated in one of the three biggest circus competitions in the world winning the bronze award. They were also awarded a special prize as the favorite act where they competed against circus groups from 30 different countries.

Yamilla Hernandez said "in Budapest Hungary our competition was very stiff as we competed against the best acts including gold and silver medalists from the Montecarlo International Circus Festival, artists from Cirque du Soleil as well as artists from England, Spain, Russia, Italy, Mexico, Cuba, France, Ethiopia, Ukraine, Armenia, Ireland, Hungary, Germany, Mongolia, Czech Republic, Kazakhstan and USA.

Coming from a small and relatively unknown island in the world of circus performers, we achieved 3rd place competing against some of the best acts in the world. It was an incredible accomplishment for us and best of all we made Aruba proud.

The best circus, dancing and entertainment company in the Caribbean. Their shows are exhilarating, exciting and extremely entertaining...A definite must

see when you visit Aruba.

In the summer of 2022 RCC Aruba performed in England where they were the star attraction at the historic Hippodrome Circus during their famous Summer spectacular show, doing 122 shows in just 10 weeks.

In May 2022 RCC Aruba was invited to perform in America's Got Talent. They received a standing ovation from the judges and the audience and moved to the next round of celebrity judges. All were so impressed with their great performance and they received four "yes-es" from the judges.

Yamila Hernandez, Director of RCC Aruba said "our props were lost during our trip to the US but within an hour of starting the show some of our props arrived. AGT production supplied us with some of their mats, making it possible for us to perform. We were a little nervous that we did not have all of our own equipment, but when we heard the applause and shouts of more than 1500 people in the audience we were filled with courage and managed to do a great performance"

Before leaving for their next Europe Tour in December RCC Aruba is presenting 4 shows in Aruba at the Paseo Herencia Ballroom. They will be performing their AGT show as well as their other shows. These shows will be on Friday's at 7 p.m. starting November 11 till December 2, 2022. The show has a cost of only Afl. 45,= per person as they wanted to maintain it at an affordable price so that everyone on the Island could have the chance to see the show.

You can make your reservation on whatsapp +297 744 40 59 or buy your ticket at Paseo Herencia - T.G.I. Friday.

Don't miss this opportunity to see our own RCC Aruba on stage on our Island of Aruba.

After this presentation they will be going on a tour to Germany and Italy. □



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First Mosquito Survey for the ABC Islands in nearly 75 years

Kralendijk, Bonaire- 10th of November- In 2018, Naturalis Biodiversity Center conducted the first mosquito survey for the Dutch Leeward Islands (Sint Maarten, Sint Eustatius and Saba) in more than 70 years. In November, they plan to repeat these surveys, this time for the islands of Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao. The team will consist of five researchers and two students from different institutes and universities, and will be executed in close collaboration with the local mosquito control units of each island.

In addition to being a household nuisance, mosquitoes can spread a number of human and livestock pathogens which are responsible for causing diseases such as dengue, chikungunya, malaria, Zika, Rift Valley and West Nile Fever. In the last decade, the Caribbean has seen a series of mosquito-borne disease outbreaks including the 2014 chikungunya outbreak, the 2016 Zika outbreak and several dengue outbreaks with the last one



Salt water rock pools can be natural breeding places for some mosquitoes. Photo: Jordy van der Beek.

documented in 2020.

Mosquito Surveys

A new study, led by Naturalis Biodiversity Center from Leiden, the Netherlands, will assess the current mosquito biodiversity across the islands of Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao. The aim will be to visit each island for 7-10 days, setting 10-16 traps to inventory adult mosquitos. In addition, the aquatic larvae will be sampled from various potential mosquito breeding sites. These surveys will take place between November 13th and December 6th, starting in Aruba. The aim of the expedition is

to gain knowledge on mosquito diversity and establish identification tools to help public health research on the islands.

Human Health Implications

Often during an outbreak, the only way to slow down the spread of a disease is to control the specific mosquito population responsible for its dissemination. Therefore, effective management requires updated information on both local mosquito populations as well as their distribution across the islands. As environmental conditions continue to shift due to climate, paired with an increase in human population for the islands, we can expect to see changes in insect populations (such as mosquitos) in the future. This expedition is part of the Mobocon Program, which focuses on capacity building for mosquito borne disease control in Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba. This program already started in 2017 and is funded by the Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport. □

Picture of a *Haemagogus chrysochlorus* mosquito. This mosquito is endemic to Aruba and Curaçao, which is the only place on earth where this species can be found. Picture Carel de Haseh taken at Pos Monton, Curaçao.

The possible yield of one mosquito trap in 24 hours. Photo Sam Boerlijst, 2018.

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Travellers' Choice 2020

The Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors on the island at Caribbean Palm Village

Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The Distinguished visitor certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation, and to say 'Masha Danki', to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were **Mr. Robert & Mrs. Elizabeth Kenyon** from Massachusetts, USA.

These wonderful people stated that they love visiting

the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, its white sandy beaches and turquoise waters, its picturesque sunsets, its safety, its variety of foods, and Aruba's warm and friendly people whom have become like family to them.

Ms. Richardson together with the representatives of the Caribbean Palm Village Resort presented the certificate to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □



The Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors on the island Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa

Oranjestad - Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor on of Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as an Emerald Ambassador of Aruba. The emerald

Ambassador is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation and to say 'Masha Danki' to guests whom visited Aruba 35 years and more consecutively.

The Emerald Ambassador certificate is the highest certificate that we present, and is only given to a few, making every part of this honoring ceremony even more special.

Ms. Richardson had the great pleasure to meet and honor Mrs. Madeleine Stucki this year. Mrs. Stucki is British, born in the island of Mauritius, and living in Switzerland. Her first visit to Aruba was in 1987 and she has

come to Aruba every year ever since. Her visits are not just regular visits. Every year she visits the island, she stays for two months. Sometimes She even comes to Aruba twice in a year!

Mrs. Stucki mentioned that she will be coming to Aruba every year as long as she can. It is incredibly beautiful to see that Aruba still has so many loyal visitors, and that they even choose to bring along their families so they can experience the Aruba effect as well.

Ms. Richardson together with the representatives of the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa presented the certificates to the honorees, handed over some presents, and also thanked her for choosing Aruba as her favorite vacation destination and as her home-away-from-home. □



Local artist, Nimia Alexandra Geerman: “If I make someone feel something with my art, for me that’s great”

ORANJESTAD – Nimia Alexandra Geerman is a local artist who dedicates some of her time to tattoos, but also finds inspiration for paintings and even to paint shoes by hand. For this, she created her own brand “Bunnyhop” which is about wearable art.

Her love for art began at a very young age when she took some courses for painting. Her father was also an artist attending art school, and her mother was someone who thought that because she had a

daughter with an artist, she was born with the same talent. “But when you create art, it’s not something you are born with. The only talent you are born with is the desire to paint, to invest your time to painting. It’s the same as people who become athletes or play music, you need to train every day and invest your time”, she says.

In high school she couldn’t focus on subjects like math, English or Dutch. She liked crafts and painting. She had help from a



teacher where she would skip French or English class and go painting lessons. “Because I really loved it, everything that can be learned related to art, I wanted to do it. Whether it was clay, painting, anything related to art, I liked investing my time to learn about it”, she said.

Her wish from a young age was to become an artist, but her mother used to tell her she couldn’t live off art and she needed to study

something. She decided to study to become a masseuse and worked as such for many years.

She says that one day someone told her that there was a meeting with a man called Tito Bolivar to create a fair. “When I went to the meeting I was delighted, that was the first time I took part [in Aruba Art Fair].”

That was the first time she exhibited her art.

She also participated in

the latest edition of Aruba Art Fair last week in San Nicolas, her second time participating. She said it was great when people would give her positive comments, and seeing other artists painting murals, which was a goal for her. She started with small paintings, progressing to larger ones and eventually arriving at murals, which for her was an achievement.

Finalizing, Geerman indicated that art is something anyone can develop, and something that is very important for the mental state of a person, particularly those with mental health issues like depression.

“There are many emotional things going on and I say that art is a big help. For example in my own life, if I’m sad I paint, if I’m happy I paint, everything that I have inside I reflect or I try to hide behind colors. It can be good, it can be bad. If I make anyone feel something with my art, for me that’s great. You don’t have to be afraid of failing. Just buy some art supplies and paint for yourself. If it comes out bad it’s no problem, next time you do it better.” □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 46 "Go

1 Make ahead, ashamed ask"

6 Goes under

11 Carried

12 Silly

13 Caravan creature

14 "Never-more" sayer

15 Bulldog's school

17 Not natural

18 Music genre

20 Periods

22 Groom's answer

23 Sports jackets

26 List divider

28 News summary

29 Omate wardrobe

31 Carnival city

32 Opposed

33 Bloke

34 Crooked

36 Lisa's brother

38 Weather aid

40 Chicago team

43 Sporting site

44 Spine-tingling

45 Mist

DOWN

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2 Frilly wrap

3 Senior military officer

4 Furtive fellow

5 Pluto's domain

6 Army address

7 Stunned

8 Defense Department

9 Pants bigwig

10 Transmit

11 Long fish

12 Costa —

13 Smell

14 Exceptional

15 Fishing need

16 Forecast word

17 Set eyes on

18 Big Sky

19 setting

20 Vault part

21 Garson of film

22 Lingerie buys

23 Tombstone

24 Help in crime

25 Bright beam

26 Brink

27 Take in

R	O	M	E	D	A	S	H	E	R
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Yesterday's answer

10 Transmit

16 Long fish

18 Costa —

19 Smell

21 Exceptional

23 Fishing need

24 Forecast word

25 Set eyes on

27 Big Sky

29 setting

30 Vault part

33 Garson of film

34 Lingerie buys

35 Tombstone

37 Help in crime

39 Bright beam

41 Brink

42 Take in

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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3						14			
	15				16		17		
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29					30			31	
		32					33		
34	35				36	37			
38				39		40		41	42
43						44			
45						46			

AXYDLBAAXR
KLONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

11-11

CRYPTOQUOTE

QE OJR ZRDO GEM AIC MCOVX

GEM UCET ZROORS. OJRC TJRC

GEM UCET ZROORS. QE ZROORS.

— FIGI ICNRXEM

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: A GOOD HAIRDRESSER CAN EXPRESS EVERY MOOD AND EVERY PASSION OF THE HUMAN HEART. — W. SOMERSET MAUGHAM

AP source: U.S. authorities investigate crypto exchange FTX

By KEN SWEET and MICHAEL BALSAMO

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) —

The swift collapse of cryptocurrency exchange FTX sent more shockwaves through the crypto world on Thursday, with authorities now investigating the firm for potential securities violations and analysts bracing for a further downturn in crypto prices.

FTX had agreed earlier this week to sell itself to bigger rival Binance after experiencing the cryptocurrency equivalent of a bank run. Customers fled the exchange after becoming concerned about whether FTX had sufficient capital.

A person familiar with matter said that the Department of Justice and the Securities and Exchange Commission are examining FTX to determine whether any criminal activity or securities offenses were committed. The person could not discuss details of the investigations publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

This week's developments marked a shocking turn of events for FTX CEO and founder Sam Bankman-Fried, who was hailed as somewhat of a savior earlier this year when he helped shore up a number of cryptocurrency companies that ran into financial trouble.

The investigation into Bankman-Fried and FTX by those in the crypto world as well as securities regulators is centering on the possibility that the firm may have used customers' deposits to fund bets at Bankman-



An advertisement for Bitcoin cryptocurrency is displayed on a street in Hong Kong, on Feb. 17, 2022.

Associated Press

Fried's hedge fund, Alameda Research. In traditional markets, brokers are expected to separate client funds from other company assets. Violations can be punished by regulators. Meanwhile, investors in popular digital currencies got some relief from the latest crypto crisis Thursday after days of selling. Bitcoin rose to \$17,691 after dropping as low as \$15,512 on Wednesday.

Ethereum rose 12%. The gains came after a government report showing inflation cooled a bit last month gave a lift to riskier assets.

The crypto world had hoped that Binance, the world's largest crypto exchange, might be able to rescue FTX and its depositors. However, after Binance had a chance to look at the books of FTX, it became clear that the smaller exchange's problems were too big to solve. A person familiar with the dealings between FTX and Binance described the books as a "black hole" where it was impossible to

differentiate between the assets and liabilities of FTX the exchange and those of Alameda Research. This person spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak publicly about the matter.

This person said Bankman-Fried committed the "ultimate sin" by tapping into FTX's custodial assets to fund Alameda Research. In a further illustration of FTX's financial straits, Bankman-Fried asked his investors Wednesday for \$8 billion to cover withdrawal requests, according to The Wall Street Journal, citing unnamed sources.

In a series of Tweets on Thursday, the FTX founder and CEO said that he did not have enough liquidity to cover withdrawals and that he was more leveraged than he had thought. "I f(asterisk)(asterisk)(asterisk)ed up, and should have done better," he said.

The collapse of the cryptocurrency's third largest exchange is likely to cause further disruption across the entire crypto world, analysts say, meaning Thursday's rally could be temporary.

"The unwinding of FTX, as well as its shock of confidence to the system, will cause crypto prices to fall even further leading to "a new cascade of margin calls," said analysts at J.P. Morgan in a note to investors. □

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Section of destroyed shuttle Challenger found on ocean floor

By **MARCIA DUNN**

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.

(AP) — A large section of the destroyed space shuttle Challenger has been found buried in sand at the bottom of the Atlantic, more than three decades after the tragedy that killed a schoolteacher and six others.

NASA's Kennedy Space Center announced the discovery Thursday.

"Of course, the emotions come back, right?" said Michael Ciannilli, a NASA manager who confirmed the remnant's authenticity. When he saw the underwater video footage, "My heart skipped a beat, I must say, and it brought me right back to 1986 ... and what we all went through as a nation."

It's one of the biggest pieces of Challenger found in the decades since the accident, according to Ciannilli, and the first remnant to be discovered since two fragments from the left wing washed ashore in 1996.

Divers for a TV documentary first spotted the piece in March while looking for wreckage of a World War II plane. NASA verified through video a few months ago that the piece was part of the shuttle that broke apart shortly after liftoff on Jan. 28, 1986. All seven on board were killed, including the first schoolteacher bound for space, Christa McAuliffe.

The underwater video provided "pretty clear and convincing evidence," said Ciannilli.

The piece is more than 15 feet by 15 feet (4.5 meters by 4.5 meters); it's likely bigger because part of it is covered with sand. Because there are square thermal tiles on the piece, it's believed to be from the shuttle's belly, Ciannilli said. The fragment remains on the ocean floor just off the Florida coast near Cape Canaveral as NASA determines the next step. It remains the property of the



In this photo provided by the HISTORY® Channel, underwater explorer and marine biologist Mike Barnette and wreck diver Jimmy Gadowski explore a 20-foot segment of the 1986 Space Shuttle Challenger that the team discovered in the waters off the coast of Florida during the filming of The HISTORY® Channel's new series, "The Bermuda Triangle: Into Cursed Waters," premiering Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2022.

Associated Press

U.S. government. The families of all seven Challenger crew members have been notified.

"We want to make sure whatever we do, we do the right thing for the legacy of the crew," Ciannilli said.

Roughly 118 tons (107 metric tons) of Challenger debris have been recovered since the accident. That represents about 47% of the entire vehicle, including parts of the two solid-fuel boosters and external fuel tank. Most of the recovered wreckage remains

buried in abandoned missile silos at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station. The exception is a left side shuttle panel on display at Kennedy Space Center's visitor complex, alongside the charred cockpit window frame from shuttle Columbia, which broke apart over Texas during re-entry in 2003, killing seven astronauts.

Far less has been recovered of Columbia 42 tons (38 metric tons) representing 38% of the shuttle. The Columbia remains are stored in converted offic-

es inside Kennedy's massive hangar. Launched on an exceptionally cold morning, Challenger was brought down by eroded O-ring seals in the right booster. Columbia ended up with a slashed left wing, the result of foam insulation breaking off the external fuel tank at liftoff. Mismanagement was also blamed. □



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A Jewish detective bows on TV during a wave of antisemitism

By **MARK KENNEDY**

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Viewers of “The Calling” will quickly learn it isn’t a typical TV police procedural. Just two minutes in, the lead detective of a fresh murder bows quietly over the dead body and prays.

Detective Avraham Avraham is an unusual figure in the New York Police Department: A keen observer of human behavior from his study of philosophy and his Orthodox Jewish faith.

“I’m proud to play a Jewish detective that is religious,” says actor Jeff Wilbusch, who plays Avraham. “It’s very unique to have such a show. And I think it’s an important story to tell.”

Peacock’s “The Calling,” which co-stars Juliana Canfield as Avraham’s partner, is from celebrated showrunner, writer and executive producer David E. Kelley, with Oscar- and Emmy-winning Barry Levinson directing the first two episodes and Hans Zimmer and Steve Mazzaro providing the music. It debuts Thursday.

Based on a series of books by Israeli crime writer Dror A. Mishani, “The Calling” puts a Jewish detective who quotes from the Torah front and center on U.S. primetime during a new spasm of antisemitism.



This image released by Peacock shows Jeff Wilbusch in a scene from “The Calling.”

Associated Press

“We’re living in tricky times, sad times,” says Wilbusch. “I believe very much in the power of storytelling. You know, I don’t know how much power I have, but I’m very proud of the series.”

“The Calling” is a quirky, more quiet show, using melodies that borrow from the Middle East and cinematography grinded into the gritty streets of New York City, where it was filmed during 2022’s spring and summer.

One recurring character is a homeless former professor.

“This is a different animal. It’s not going to be for everyone,” says Kelley. “It’s a battle to wrestle for the viewer’s attention and when you use as your vehicle to wrestle a more quiet character in a quiet show, it brings certain challenges with it.”

Wilbusch’s Avraham, or Avi to his colleagues, is a lonewolf of a detective brilliant but a bit stand-offish and sometimes too blunt. He doodles pictures of fish on napkins to relax and can read a room and a suspect like no other detective.

“The mood of the show is intentionally enigmatic,” says Canfield.

“Avi is a detective who operates in a different way from your run-of-the-mill detective. And I think the show mirrors his approach in a lot of ways, which is to say the show and Avi are both deeply interested in character and human behavior.”

The first season centers on the case of a missing teen, which stretches out over the eight, hourlong episodes. The detectives run down every lead, from

school friends and his sister to his unhappy mother and stern father. Avraham is always trying to get inside the head of a suspect or victim, even sitting quietly on the edge of the missing teen’s bed to feel his essence.

It’s a character that immediately intrigued the Israeli-born actor. Few acting jobs led him to prepare by asking real homicide detectives how they decompress after work while also reading essays about Hellenistic-period Stoics like Marcus Aurelius.

In one scene, Canfield’s character notices the shelves of books in her partner’s cubicle. “There’s a copy of the Torah and the Talmud, but there are also books written by great Greek philosophers and classical philosophers. So he uses Judaism as a sort of entry point into a way of thinking about the world philosophically. And that’s how he approached his detective work.”

The interplay between Avraham and Canfield’s rookie detective is delightful. She is an ambitious, by-the-book cop who sees him use his pools of knowledge and hyper-detailed observations of social behavior to crack cases. “You can’t learn what he does,” warns her commander. “Yes, I can,” she responds. □

Snoop Dogg biopic is in development with Universal Pictures



Entertainer Snoop Dogg walks on the field before an NFL football game between the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the New Orleans Saints Sunday, Dec. 19, 2021, in Tampa, Fla.
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Snoop Dogg is getting a big-screen biopic.

Universal Pictures announced Wednesday that the studio is developing a film about Snoop Dogg’s life to be produced by the 51-year-old rapper. The film will be written by Joe Robert Cole, who co-wrote the two “Black Panther” films, and directed by Allen Hughes, the filmmaker of “Menace II Society.”

“I waited a long time to put this project together because I wanted to choose the right director, the perfect writer, and the greatest movie company I could

partner with that could understand the legacy that I’m trying to portray on screen, and the memory I’m trying to leave behind,” Snoop said in a statement. “It was the perfect marriage. It was holy matrimony, not holy macaroni.” Universal previously turned the story of rap group N.W.A. into the hit 2015 film “Straight Outta Compton” and also released the acclaimed Eminem biopic “8 Mile” in 2002. Cole said the studio “has proven they can guide a movie like this to something special.”

Donna Langley, chairman of Universal Filmed Enter-

tainment Group, said she met with Snoop shortly after he acquired Death Row Records. His acquisition was announced just days before Snoop performed in the Super Bowl halftime show in February with Dr. Dre, Eminem, Mary J. Blige and Kendrick Lamar.

Snoop Dogg broke through in the early ‘90s as part of the West Coast rap scene as a collaborator of Dr. Dre’s.

He’s sold more than 35 million albums worldwide in his three-decade career. He’ll produce the film along with Sara Ramaker and Hughes. □

Díaz, Mets ink \$102M, 5-year deal, record for MLB closer

By **MIKE FITZPATRICK**
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — With a record contract for Edwin Díaz, his swift return to the New York Mets was music to their ears.

Díaz and the Mets completed their \$102 million, five-year deal Wednesday the largest for a reliever in baseball history. The star closer can opt out after three seasons, and the agreement includes a team option for 2028.

The 28-year-old Díaz became a free agent Sunday following a dominant season with the Mets. Needing to rebuild most of their pitching staff, they started at the back end of the bullpen and quickly locked up the right-hander before other teams were permitted to negotiate with him.

"Edwin has every attribute we look for in a closer," general manager Billy Eppler said in a news release. "He's a tremendous competitor, has a burning desire to be the best and possesses the stuff to compete with any hitter in the league. We are thrilled he'll be anchoring our bullpen moving forward."

Díaz went 3-1 with a 1.31 ERA and 32 saves in 35



New York Mets relief pitcher Edwin Díaz (39) reacts after the final out in the first baseball game of a doubleheader against the Washington Nationals, Oct. 4, 2022, in New York.

Associated Press

chances this year, making his second All-Star team. He had 118 strikeouts in 62 innings over 61 appearances as New York won 101 games second-most in club history and earned the top National League wild card for its first playoff berth in six years.

Harnessing his 100 mph-plus fastball and wipeout slider, Díaz became the third major league pitcher to face at least 200 batters and strike out more than half of

them, joining closers Aroldis Chapman in 2014 and Craig Kimbrel in 2012. Díaz's rate of 17.13 strikeouts per nine innings ranked second in big league history behind Chapman's mark of 17.74 in 2014. Along the way, Díaz became a fan favorite at Citi Field with his rousing entrance to the popular tune "Narco" by Blasterjaxx and Timmy Trumpet.

"Sound the trumpets! It's official. Edwin Díaz deal is done," Mets owner Steve

Cohen tweeted Wednesday after Díaz passed his physical.

The aggressive move by the Mets took one of the top arms off the market before baseball's free-agent frenzy even begins this off-season.

Díaz's deal broke the previous high for a reliever, set when Chapman returned to the New York Yankees after the 2016 season for an \$86 million, five-year agreement. Chapman

voided the last two years and reached a \$48 million, three-year contract that brought his earnings to \$104 million over six seasons.

Eppler said late in the season he told agent Joel Wolfe the team was interested in re-signing Díaz, and expressed that to the pitcher directly as players were leaving the clubhouse following the final game.

"Began dialogue, I don't know, 12, 15 days after that. We had a good amount of dialogue over the last week before we really dug into some numbers and kind of walked through some structures. Once we could outline kind of a framework, it was just a matter of calling everyone on the line," Eppler said at the GM meetings in Las Vegas.

"We trust the player. We trust the character. He wanted to get something done. He wanted to stay here. He was very upfront about that and we were ready to go, so we felt it was a really good match." Under Cohen, who bought the Mets after the 2020 season, New York became baseball's biggest spender this year for the first time since 1989. □

Tiger Woods to return at his tournament in the Bahamas

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
AP Golf Writer

Tiger Woods made it official Wednesday by announcing he would return to competition as part of the 20-man field at the Hero World Challenge in the Bahamas.

Woods is the tournament host of the unofficial event on Dec. 1-4 at Albany Golf Club, where the tournament has been played since 2015.

It will be the first time Woods has played the Hero World Challenge, which benefits his foundation, since 2019.

Woods, who announced his decision on Twitter, has not played competitively since he missed the cut in the British Open at St. An-

draws in July.

That was only the third tournament he played in 2022, all of them majors. He made the cut at the Masters and PGA Championship, finishing 47th at Augusta National and withdrawing after three rounds at Southern Hills.

The Hero World Challenge is the start of a busy month for Woods, who also has agreed to play in a made-for-TV exhibition on Dec. 10 with Rory McIlroy as his partner in a 12-hole match against Jordan Spieth and Justin Thomas.

Woods also is expected to play in the PNC Championship a week later with his son, Charlie. They were runners-up a year ago in

Orlando, Florida.

The 20-man field in the Bahamas receives world ranking points, with the caveat that sponsor exemptions must be among the top 50 in the world.

There is an exception for the tournament host Woods is at No. 1,245.

Woods said Tommy Fleetwood and Kevin Kisner would be the other exemptions, joining an already stacked field that has 17 of the top 20 players in the world. The only players from the top 20 not playing are McIlroy, Cameron Smith and Patrick Cantlay. Smith, the British Open champion, is ineligible because of his PGA Tour suspension for joining LIV Golf. □



Tiger Woods tips his hat to the crowd during a match between Serena Williams and Anett Kontaveit, of Estonia, in the second round of the U.S. Open tennis championships, Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2022, in New York.

Associated Press

Running game having biggest impact in decades in NFL

By **JOSH DUBOW**
AP Pro Football Writer

Derrick Henry was a bit amused by the premise of a question talking about the importance of passing in the modern NFL.

"Is it a passing league?" he said jokingly. "I'm playing. But we (have) guys in the league that are running the ball well, that are efficient and been playing at a high level for an amount of years. So just credit to our RBs in the game. Just keep killing it."

Henry and his running back friends have been doing just that through the first half of the season with a big assist from a young generation of running quarterbacks such as Lamar Jackson and Justin Fields.

While the big paydays and much of the attention goes to quarterbacks, receivers and other players who impact the passing game either by blocking or defending, there has been a bit of a renaissance when it comes to running the football. With defenses keeping two safeties deep and playing with fewer defenders near the line of scrimmage to guard against the big play, and offenses more willing to take advantage of that, running the ball is having its biggest success in decades.

Through the first nine weeks of the season, teams are combining for 241.4 yards rushing per game for the



Tennessee Titans running back Derrick Henry (22) runs with the ball past Kansas City Chiefs safety Justin Reid (20) and cornerback Trent McDuffie (21) during the first half of an NFL football game Sunday, Nov. 6, 2022, in Kansas City, Mo.

Associated Press

highest mark at this point of the season since 1987 when the league used replacements players for three games.

The previous time it happened with real NFL players the entire time was in 1985 when Walter Payton, Marcus Allen and Eric Dickerson were among the game's biggest stars.

"It feels like there is a little bit of a change around the league where teams really are making a big emphasis and focus to run the football," Seattle defensive coordinator Clint Hurtt said.

There are five teams averaging at least 150 yards a

game on the ground one more than did it in the past three seasons combined.

The Giants have used their success on the ground to be one of the league's biggest surprises with six wins already on the strength of a healthy season from Saquon Barkley and using quarterback Daniel Jones in the running game.

Atlanta has remained in contention in what was supposed to be a rebuilding year by capitalizing on the mobility of quarterback Marcus Mariota and backs such as Cordarrelle Patterson.

"People know we want to

run the football," coach Arthur Smith said. "That's what fires you up, and it won't be that way every week. We're going to have a challenge. We know how competitive it is. But when you can run the ball, when they know you're going to run it, that speaks volumes about your guys."

Even teams that have dynamic options in the passing game have been using the run to great success to take advantage of how defenses play these days. The struggling Raiders had their biggest success offensively this season during a three-game stretch when

Josh Jacobs rushed for 441 yards against defenses geared to stop Davante Adams.

"You've got to be able to function and execute against whatever they do," coach Josh McDaniels said. "If they're going to try to protect the deep part of the field and not give up a bunch of big plays, I think that comes back down to execution and discipline for us. I mean, if you have to drive it 10 to 12 plays to score, then you're going to need to be able to be disciplined enough to do that." Perhaps no team has had as much success on the ground as the Bears, who have gotten a big spark on offense when they seemed to ditch the passing game and focus the offense around Fields and his ability to run.

Chicago is averaging 195.4 yards per game on the ground, putting the Bears on pace for 3,322 yards 26 more than the single-season record set in a 16-game season by Baltimore in 2019.

But the Bears are averaging 243 yards rushing the past four games becoming the second in NFL history to rush for at least 235 yards in four straight games. That feat was last accomplished by the 1949 Eagles when the sport barely resembled the modern version that took over when rules made passing easier in 1978. □

Recently retired P.K. Subban joining ESPN as hockey analyst

By **JOE REEDY**
AP Sports Writer

P.K. Subban has become a full-time member of ESPN's hockey team after contributing during last season's Stanley Cup playoff coverage.

Subban, who retired in September, has signed a three-year agreement with ESPN. He will work mainly as a studio analyst but will handle some games during the season.

"I've known for a few weeks now. It's been tough to have known what I was

gonna do and just kind of keep it close to the chest. But I'm excited now that we're here," Subban said. "I had done some work last postseason and it was great. I enjoyed working with the producers and everybody."

Subban said the opportunities of making appearances on "First Take" and other ESPN programming during the playoffs was another factor in the decision.

The 33-year-old Subban played 13 seasons for the Montreal Canadiens, Nash-

ville Predators and New Jersey Devils. He scored 467 points in 824 regular-season games, including 115 goals. He won the Norris Trophy as the league's top defenseman in 2013 with the Canadiens and reached the 2017 Stanley Cup Final with the Predators as well as being a three-time NHL All-Star selection. Mark Gross, ESPN's senior vice president for Production and Remote Events, said Subban adds even more experience to the network's roster of analysts and reporters. □



Montreal Canadiens defenseman P. K. Subban arrives at the NHL hockey All-Star game skills competition on Jan. 30, 2016, in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press